

January 26, 1981

MEMO REGARDING CATALOGUE FOR "CALIFAS" EXHIBIT

This exhibit represents a cross-section of artists of Mexican parentage currently working in various geographic areas of California. All of the artists have been making art and participating in exhibits for at least ten years and some for as many as twenty-five years. Some of the artists have exhibited together in state, national and international exhibitions. One such exhibit, "Ancient Roots/New Visions," currently on display in the ~~USA~~ Palace of Mines in Mexico City, was brought by invitation of La Señora Carmen López Portillo, wife of the President of Mexico under the aegis of the National University of Mexico. The exhibit will travel abroad in 1982.

Though the Chicano artist has begun to receive some international attention, the bibliography in this subject area is still a short one. Jacinto Quirarte's, "Mexican American Artist," published in 1973, features Villa, Montoya, Palomino and myself. Our work is critically discussed and Villa and Montoya discuss Chicano art. But in general this book is outdated and its focus is primarily of national scope.

In 1975, a catalogue came out accompanying an exhibit entitled, "Chicanarte," at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery. Chávez, Montoya, Herron and García were among the exhibitors in an otherwise unevenly curated show. The catalogue contained no critical or historical essays and no color reproductions.

The catalogue being proposed, which includes works photographed in black and white, twelve color cuts, and five historical and critical essays would have wide appeal. Since there is little on the subject, libraries and schools would be immediate customers. It is my feeling the Hispanic population in our immediate service area will give a special response to this catalogue.

This is an opportunity for UCSC to do something in an area which is new and exciting and of significance to all Californians. It will go down as the most definitive work to date on Chicano artists.

Prepared by Eduardo Carrillo, Associate Professor of Art and Humanities